

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Interval House Crisis Shelters

Program Name: Interval House AmeriCorps

Application ID: 14ED158167

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

#### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

##### Strengths:

The applicant articulates a clear need for economic opportunity in the communities served (Long Beach, Compton, Molokai), including high rates of poverty, unemployment, low college graduation, low English speaking rates, and high incidences of domestic violence in comparison to other nearby localities, according to the US Census and local government agencies.

The applicant articulates the higher level of stressors including economic, violence and drug use, among native people in Molokai, compared to other ethnic groups in the area.

The data the applicant used is specific to the target population.

The applicant clearly and comprehensively demonstrates, by citing recent and regional statistics, that helping individuals overcome barriers (such as cultural and linguistic isolation, domestic violence and homelessness) improves their economic self-sufficiency.

The applicant provides poverty statistics on Orange, Los Angeles counties of South California, and the Hawaiian island of Molokai, using relevant local / county data and other statistical sources, supporting the problems presented.

The applicant fully describes the problems associated with cultural and linguistic isolation and their relation to increased rates of domestic violence, economic instability, unemployment, and other issues.

The applicant satisfactorily describes the need to improve the multilingual financial literacy and job skills development in the target community to improve economic stability.

The applicant cites randomized research to support the financial literacy curriculum intervention.

The applicant indicates positive success with previous applications of the proposed interventions, including clients' self-reported increases of confidence and skills and objective success in goals (including an increase in savings, credit scores and job attainment).

The Theory of Change shows alignment between inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes.

The applicant clearly shows how the program will be measured; it outlines a consistent and aligned Theory of Change that demonstrates a relationship between the inputs and resources, activities and interventions, outputs of the beneficiaries and outcomes.

The participants' program completion will be measured through a Client Information Tracking System.

The applicant's Theory of Change model is coherent, well described and interventions are unified logically within both the narrative and the logic model provided.

The applicant clearly describes the interventions with accompanying activities, outputs and proposed outcomes in comprehensive details and supportive narrations.

Evidence provided in support of the program model by the applicant is strong, well detailed and comprehensive in its description.

The applicant has exceeded output targets for the past three years by 30%, demonstrating ability in achieving current goals and strong program and staffing structure to have a successful intervention.

One-year follow-up surveys indicate that high numbers of clients (88% to 92%) were successful in meeting positive financial outcomes, including increased savings, credit scores and acceptance into job or training programs.

The applicant has been successful in meeting his targets for the last 3 years of program since they have exceeded their goal by an average of 30% with over 90% of participant's reporting positive outcomes. Last year 90%, on average, demonstrated outstanding outcomes in moving toward self-sufficiency after the program completion.

One-year follow-up surveys conducted on the program participants reported 92% being hired into a job or accepted into an educational program; over 88% increased their savings and over 90% increased their credit records.

The applicant provides substantial data regarding the success of its 35 years of providing social services and empowerment programs to people in crisis; for example, one year follow-up surveys show that 92% of participants were either hired or went on to post-secondary education.

Weaknesses:

Two of the citations for evidence to support the intervention are program plans or best practices (HUD, WorkSmart), while other research cited does not indicate if the studies focused on a similar client population.